



ÖZEL  
TARSUS  
AMERİKAN  
KOLEJİ

# MONTHLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

2016 - 2017

SEPTEMBER



# TAC OPENS THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



**Monday** **2016** **September 5**

TAC's opening ceremony of the 2016-2017 academic year was well-attended by students as well as parents, graduates and school community members.

This year's seniors were able to make a splendiferous entrance with the drums and horns, a TAC tradition, as opposed to last year's sombre one due to the tragic incidents in the country. TAC students who arrived in the ceremony area with an oversized Turkish flag, and flares treated the TAC students, parents, alumni and administrators to a zesty opening of the year.

Among those who took the stage for remarks and good wishes for the year were School Principal Günseli Yüksel, Headmaster Mr. Andrew Leathwood, TAC Alumni Association President Dr. Ali Cerrahoğlu and Student Council President Efe Çelebi.

Following presenting certificates to students with highest TAC points from each grade level, the ceremony ended and the students headed to their new classes for the first lesson of the year.

# TAC Teaching Staff in 2016-2017 Academic Year



**Tarsus American College  
Is Ready For The 2016-  
2017 Academic Year With  
Its Fully-Qualified,  
Experienced, Idealist,  
Innovative And Energized  
Teaching Staff.**

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## TAC's Prep Parent Orientation Monday, September 5

The first parent orientation of the new academic year was held on Monday, September 5 at the auditorium of the historic Stickler building with a full parent participation.

The meeting was attended by headmaster Andrew Leathwood, Principal Günseli Yüksel, administrators, and all teachers teaching this year.

This introductory meeting enabled school administrators and teachers to share this year's plans, program and goals with parents of students attending the English program.

The Student Parent Handbook as well as the Counseling Department Handbook were shared with the new parents.

We hope that the new academic year becomes a rewarding one for all students, parents and teachers.



# TAC Opens Its Doors To New Boarding Students

While the school is excited to start the new academic year in 2016-2017, our new boarding students from various parts of Turkey arrived to settle in their new homes in Tarsus. Being a part of a deep-rooted tradition and a priceless family which will make a true difference in lives, our new students, just like the hundreds of previous classes before them, will accumulate valuable and unforgettable memories, step into a world of lifetime friendships. They will experience the privilege of being a boarding student at TAC. On Saturday, September 3rd, the new parents and students were warmly welcomed into this family by administrators, teachers and school personnel. The completed registration formalities, and headed to the auditorium to listen to a welcome presentation. Here, Headmaster Andrew Leathwood and School Principal Günseli Yüksel took

the stage to give their remarks. Later, Nail Baran, the Coordinator for the Dormitories, shared his thoughts and welcome and introduced the staff members working at the dormitories, and talked about the dormitory rules. Following the remarks by Sinan Öz, guidance counselor and Ali Cerrahoğlu, our school doctor and the President of the TAC Alumni Association, the student rooms were assigned by lottery and students settled into their rooms. In the evening, the students were treated to a fun-filled barbecue party organized for them and their parents. This day was engraved in memories as a time where the first bonds were built towards a warm, welcoming relationship between the new students and the school. We wish all students of Tarsus American College, day and boarding, a healthy, happy and successful academic year.



## TAC's Peer Counselors Start the Year

Peer counselors are the first people to become aware of the needs, conflicts, and struggles of their peers as their closest resource and confidantes. "Peer Support and Counseling" is a development program which are supervised by the Psychological Counselors in schools where students who volunteer to become a part of this program complete a training to be able to serve in this capacity.

30 TAC students who completed a 10-week training last year in February and June when they were in grade 9 were awarded their certificates as "Peer Counselors" this year. These young students who first worked during the boarding student orientations this year in September 3-4 trying to support and help the adaptation process of the new boarding students and their parents, are already looking forward to reaching out to many students in different grade levels this year.

In the light of their training and personal efforts, peer counselors are ready to help anyone in their adaptation to the school, in social, personal and academic issues.

As a school, we thank our peer counselors for their great contribution to our school culture and wish them continued success in this selfless commitment.



### New Peer Counselors of 2016-2017 Academic Year

Talya Boyar  
Atakan Önenli  
İdil Güdemez  
Dila Aksoy  
Bertil Örtlek  
Doğu Yurtsever

Çağla Küpük  
Emre Özekici  
Berke Can  
Efe Çifçi  
Melike Çağla Alpay  
Nida Görkem Aktaş

Bartu Bayraktar  
Hüseyin Emir Çifçi  
Ege Baykal  
Güney Menteş  
Alper Kutlar  
Eda Altıntaş

Berke Dağdelen  
Elif Dayı  
Letisya Sayek  
Minel Doğru  
Aslı Aydoğdu  
Melisa Çayan  
Defne Bundur  
Başak Özcan  
İdil Bayık  
Zeynep Naz Yoğurtçuoğlu  
Cevahir Bozkurt  
Erol Kaan Bostan



# TAC's PD Retreat



## September 2, 2016 – Day 1

Before the beginning of the academic year, TAC teachers met in a “Education and Communication” seminar as part of their Professional Development activities.

A series of fun and engaging sessions helped build communication between the teachers, emphasizing the major role and importance of communication in education.

In the afternoon, TAC’s visual arts teacher Tülay Okan took this emphasis on communication to a philosophical and artistic level with her workshop “Mandala”, after an introduction of the concept and its reflection on today’s culture. This workshop also helped teachers to create impressive products by working as a team.

## September 3, 2016 – Day 2

On the second day of the PD retreat, all TAC teachers listened to the exciting presentation of Esat Uğurlu, TAC 2002 graduate, who works as an educational consultant, about “Instructional Practices of the Future”.

His session involved the teachers in a brainstorming session about the global trends in education.

This presentation, which the teachers agreed was a very useful one, helped teachers gain a deeper understanding about “Differentiated Instruction” as well.

All parts of the retreat drew contributions of teachers with a positive and dynamic energy, proving that they are ready to start the year with a full repertoire of academic knowledge and enthusiasm.



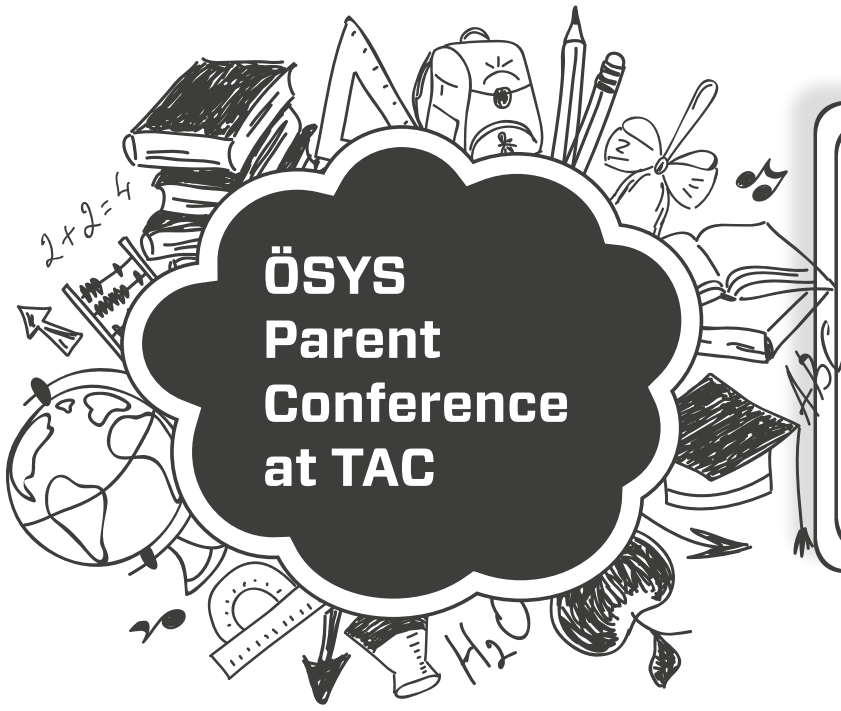
## **A Meaningful Celebration Of The El Eid (Kurban) Bayram At TAC**

TAC's Student Council Committee, with the generous support of the TAC students, teachers and administrators were pleased to be leading an EI-Eid celebration with the grounds workers of Euroserve, the services of whom are much appreciated by the school community. In this celebration where our students provided their warm and sincere greetings and service to the guests, then joined them in really good conversations while eating their baklava, one of the staples of the bayram time.

The celebration ended with special Bayram presents being given to the staff by the members of the TAC Student Council.

TAC appreciates the hard work of TAC Student Council and wish them continued success in organizing many other activities during the year which brings the school community together.





A parent conference on the OSYS, university entrance exam system, was offered to all parents on Thursday, September 29th, 2016. The conference where grade 12 parents were the largest group in attendance, detailed information was shared about YGS and LGS centralized exams as well as the impact of each course on the calculation of different types of combined exam scores. In the meeting, the parents had a chance to ask about the finer details of the exam system.

In the meeting, it was stressed that YGS and LYS preparation is not limited to grade 12 and, indeed, that most of the topics examined are a part of the grade 9 curricula, while LYS topics are covered in grades 10, 11 and 12. It was also stressed that the amount of time dedicated for preparation towards the YGS exam, the first step held in March, is significantly higher than that dedicated to LYS preparation, which poses a problem with regard to finding sufficient energy and time for this second step, which is held in June. Therefore, between the two exams, the candidates should balance the time well. It was mentioned that setting goals is the highest motivator in the preparation process and that the students should clarify their goals in terms of university, programs and their net scores. It was reminded that the preparation in this regard is not a short run, but a large marathon which impacts all family members and requires their active involvement.

The importance of taking mock exams regularly was also underlined, the focus being, especially in the first round of mock exams, to give maximum concentration for the duration of 160 minutes and to discover their personal style of using the time, beyond trying to provide correct responses within the time given.

We hope that all students will reach their goals at the end of this rigorous process.





## Üniversitelere Göre Dağılım

Üniversiteler	Öğrenci Sayısı	
İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi	12	6 %50, 2 %25, 4 Ücretli
Çukurova Üniversitesi	6	
Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi	6	1 %100, 2 %75, 1 %50, 1 %40 ve 1 Ücretli
Özyeğin Üniversitesi	5	2 %50, 2 %25, 1 Ücretli
Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi	5	1 %50 Bursu (KKTC)
Bilkent Üniversitesi	4	1 %50, 3 Ücretli
Koç Üniversitesi	4	1 %100, 1 %25 ve 2 Ücretli
Yeditepe Üniversitesi	4	1 %100, 1 %50, 2 Ücretli
İstanbul Üniversitesi	3	
Boğaziçi Üniversitesi	2	
Sabancı Üniversitesi	1	Ücretli
Medipol Üniversitesi	1	%50 Burslu
Acıbadem Üniversitesi	1	%50 Burslu
Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi	1	
Mersin Üniversitesi	1	
Marmara Üniversitesi	1	
TED Üniversitesi	1	%25
Gazi Üniversitesi	1	
Doğu Akdeniz Üniversitesi	1	Ücretli
Mimar Sinan Üniversitesi	1	

## Fakültelere Göre Dağılım

Fakülteler	Öğrenci Sayısı
İşletme	11
Hukuk	6
Mimarlık	5
Makine Mühendisliği	3
İnşaat Mühendisliği	3
Tıp	2
Endüstri Mühendisliği	2
Diş Hekimliği	2
Eczacılık	2
Mühendislik Programları	2
İşletme Mühendisliği	2
Diş Hekimliği	2
Çevre Mühendisliği	2
Kimya	1
Ekonomi	1
Bilgisayar Mühendisliği	1
Malzeme Bilimi ve Nano Teknoloji	1
Uluslararası Ticaret ve İşletmecilik	1
Felsefe	1
Fen Bilgisi Öğretmenliği	1
Ekonometri	1
Fizik	1
İngiliz Dili ve Edebiyatı	1
Arkeoloji ve Sanat Tarihi	1
Havacılık ve Uzay Mühendisliği	1
Sinema ve Televizyon	1
İngilizce Öğretmenliği	1
Jeoloji Mühendisliği	1
İç Mimarlık ve Çevre Tasarımı	1
Reklamcılık	1
İşletme-Ekonomi	1

**DEVLET ÜNİVERSİTESİ: 20**

**ÖZEL ÜNİVERSİTE: 31 (16 Ücretli)**

**Mezun olan Öğrenci Sayısı: 68 Sınava Giren Öğrenci Sayısı: 67**

**Tercih Yapan Öğrenci Sayısı: 52 Tercih Yapıp Kazanan Öğrenci Sayısı: 51**

**Başarı yüzdesi: %98,07**

**Herhangi bir üniversiteye yerleşmeyen öğrencilerimiz; 2 öğrenci**

Ülke	Yüzde	Kişi Sayısı
Türkiye	%58.82	40
USA	%10.29	7
Kanada	%5.88	4
Hollanda	%5.88	4
İtalya	%2.94	2
Macaristan	%1.47	1

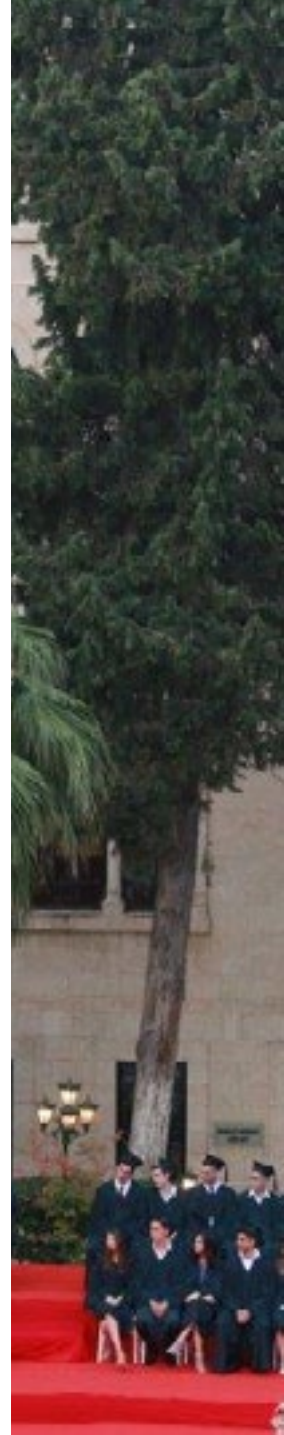
**İlk 1000'e giren öğrencilerimiz:**

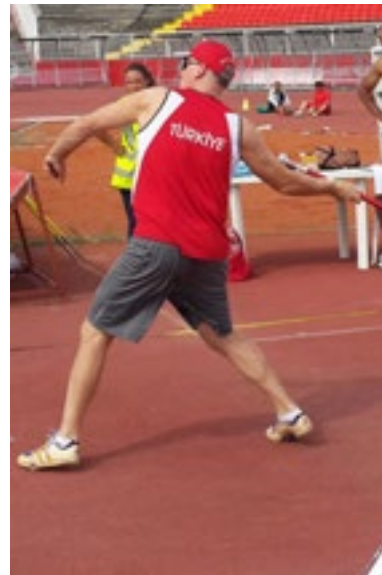
**Yusuf Karakaya ;  
Y-TM-: 516,534  
Başarı Sırası: 302**

**Emre N. Sezgin;  
Y-Dil-1: 521,222  
Başarı Sırası: 207**

**Elif Yumru;  
Y-TS-2: 491,23  
Başarı Sırası: 708**

**Egesu Durak;  
Y-Dil-1: 496,826  
Başarı Sırası: 928**





## Balkan Championships

From Sept 23-25 Ali Cerrahoglu and Andy Leathwood traveled to Novi Sad, Serbia to compete in the Balkan Masters Athletic Championships. They represented TAC and Turkey well with Dr. Ali Cerrahoğlu winning gold in the high jump and Mr. Leathwood taking the silver medal in javelin. At these events they are meeting athletes from all over the Balkans and enjoying the sites and culture of beautiful cities like Novi Sad. They seek to model a lifetime commitment to physical activity and health to our students.



## SEV's PE Teachers Meet at the Tarsus Workshop August 25-26, 2016

A workshop was organized at the Tarsus campus with all physical education teachers working at SEV elementary, middle school and high schools in order to reinforce the role of sports in our corporate culture and to make sports an integral part of the lives of our students. The activities and in-service gatherings which aim to decide on strategies to promote a life-long commitment to physical activity and sports with our students will continue throughout the year.



## Enjoying the Brunch At TAC

TAC's traditional brunch, organized by the Parent-Teacher Association and Student Council in the beginning of the new academic year again brought together students, parents, alumni, teachers and staff members on Sunday, October 2nd, 2016.

At the activity where the constituents met on a sunny Sunday provided a venue for warm conversations, new friendships or reinforcing old ones. In the backdrop of the beautiful campus, the day was filled with fun with the shopping booths, and stalls of local delicacies, as well as tug-o-war, football, basketball and volleyball games organized by students, a water fight and a much-applauded ECHO concert. The brunch also provided the opportunity for new prep students to meet with their abis and ablas, contributing to the community spirit of the school.

It truly was a memorable day reminding that TAC has much more to offer beyond academics.





## TAC's Second Prep Campout Was A Smashing Success



The last Friday of September was the scene to a very different and special activity in the grass area of Tarsus American College. Prep students and teachers shared a lot of fun accompanied by their colorful tents in the backdrop of the natural richness of the school. With the last bell signalling the end of the classes for the day, and after the flag ceremony, the very excited prep students started setting up camp, the grass area in front of Unity building. The students had a lot of fun with the games and sports activities organized by TAC'S PE Department while learning about teamwork and collaboration. Leaving technological gadgets aside for even one day, they enjoyed being in the company of their friends and teachers.

After their barbecue dinner, the students were treated to a vibrant karaoke party in the auditorium followed by watching a movie under the stars - with popcorn of course. The campfire, marshmallows and the songs sung around the campfire closed the night – well the very early morning.

In this campout activity where very deep conversations were shared, new friendships built and new memories collected about the TAC student life, sharing this wonderful environment with the other members of the TAC community was very refreshing for everyone.

The organizers have already started to think about further activities that can be included in the 3rd Prep Campout event next year!

# “The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award” Grade Prep ( September 2016, 21 )

The introduction of the “Duke of Edinburgh International Award” or “International Youth Awards” program was given by Ms. Tülay Okan, TAC’s Coordinator for the DoE and teacher of Visual Arts.

“The Duke of Edinburgh International Award” is being implemented at TAC since 2011 with the aim of developing in young people individual and social values. Tarsus American College has been undertaking important initiatives in this area as an active youth award unit.

## What is the Award Program?

The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award is a personal development program which can be attended by young people around the world aged 14 to 24.

## The Aim of the Program

It is to equip young people with life-long skills which will help them make a difference in their society and the wider world.



## How did the Program Start?

Since its establishment in 1956 by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, over eight million young people from 140 countries and regions have joined the program.

The Award program is made up of three categories: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The program itself is made up of three parts: Skills Development, Physical Development, Community Service.

The students at TAC who wish to be in this program need to contact Ms. Tülay Okan, who is the award leader and program coordinator.

For more information about the parts of the program, please see the relevant section of “<http://www.intaward.org.tr>” website.



## **“Individuals who develop themselves, can develop their society as well”**

“The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award” for the 2016-2017 academic year was introduced by Tülay Okan, who is the DoE Program Coordinator and Teacher of Visual Arts, Ms. Tülay Okan.

Okan, who provided background information to students on the program, as well as the IB program, the groundwork of which was laid by German educator Kurt Hahn and formation of the educational philosophy of Kurt Hahn, which developed from his studies on how to improve success capacity of students in 1930s, explained the students about the importance of social skills within this philosophy.

The presentation also talked about the observation of this valuable educator of how the performance in the learning skills of students is increased by the social and emotional interest of the students within their society and how intelligence is developed by interest and skill areas discovered through various activities. This led him to develop and promote educational systems which integrate social activities.

The presentation and the implementation of the program at TAC hopes to inspire the idea that “individuals who can develop themselves can develop their respective societies”.

# TAC Visits Tarsus War Martyrs' Cemetery

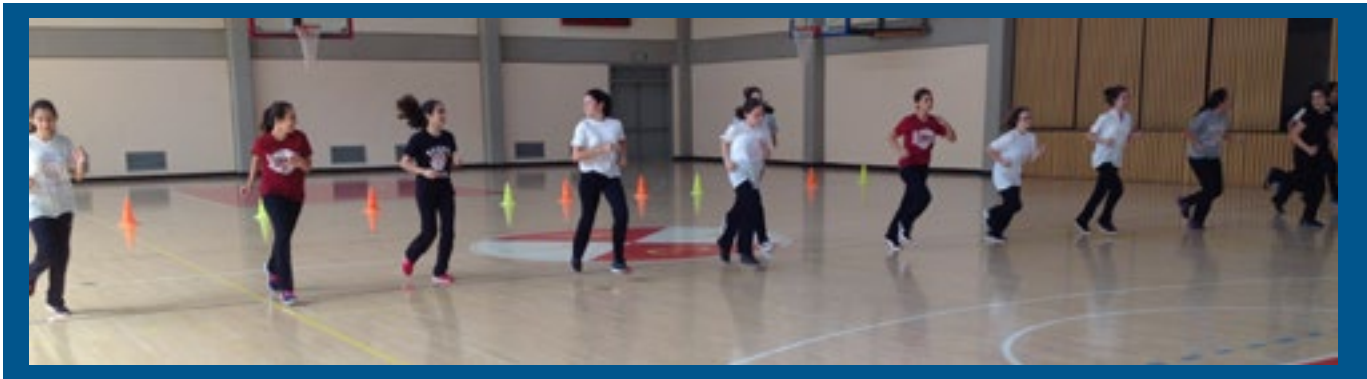
History and  
Archeology  
Club

On Wednesday, September 28, the students in the TAC History and Archeology Club visited the Tarsus War Martyrs Cemetery under the supervision of the club advisors, Nail Baran, Chair of the Social Studies Department and Mr. Hasan Turgut, teacher of History.



Our representative laid a wreath of the school on the honor section for all those soldiers who fell dead during the defence of the homeland so that we can live in peace and freedom today. They also visited each and every grave in this section, putting flowers in each of them as a token of their appreciation for the hard-won victory to which they all contributed.

We will always remain indebted to all martyrs who did not spare their lives to protect our country and the nation's independence, including those who bravely fought off the struggles in the recent years in Turkey. We will always remember them with utmost gratitude and they will continue to live in our hearts.



## New Records Of The Physical Fitness Measurements

In sports, determination of the performance potential at an early age and channelling students to the correct branch of sports which is a good fit for their fitness level is crucial in laying the groundwork for athletic success.

For this purpose, TAC's Physical Education Department involves prep students in many tests in order to obtain comprehensive information about their motor skills, general physical parameters and physical development.

**The tests conducted to our students are:**

- 20-Meter Run
- Long Jump
- Vertical Leap
- Exercise Ball Shoot and Shuttle Run

These moments which saw stiff competition and breaking of new records, enabling students to discover themselves in a brand new arena, was worth seeing. We congratulate all students for their efforts.

### Results Of The Physical Fitness Measurements Of 2016-2017

<b>20-Meter Run:</b>	ARDA AKOVA	3.14
	BEYZA KOÇ	3.78
<b>Long Jump:</b>	SAMAT BİÇER	2.70
	ÇAĞLA ÖZLÜ	1.96
<b>Vertical Leap:</b>	BARIŞ EREN YELKEN	60 cm
	EKİN YAYCI	44mt.
<b>2 kg. Exercise Ball Shoot:</b>	SAMET BİÇER	10.30 cm.
	ÇAĞLA ÖZLÜ	5.65 cm.
	İREMSU ÖZDEMİR	5.65 cm.
<b>Shuttle Run:</b>	ERKİN EMİRTEKİN	107 tur
	ARDA AKOVA	104 tur
	BERKE DİLER	104 tur



## Another New Initiative From Our Second Foreign Language Department



## “MINICITY”

Welcoming MINICITY, a Fun, Educational and Technological Language Tool!

On September 21, 2016, DAS Akademie introduced to the German teachers of TAC a new software called Mincity to use in the German lessons of grade 9 students.

On this full day seminar by Azize Sorguç, a representative from DAS Akademie, a well-recognized institution in its field, our teachers Tuba Baykal, Ahu Dursun and Yeşim İlme learned about this program effectively. With the help of Mincity, our teachers will provide more opportunities to our students to have fun while learning German with the aid of modern educational technologies.

